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8/14/66

Dear Mr. Price,

Last night the body rebelled and temporarily overcame the mind. While I was sitting for a moment, I fell ~~nkkp~~ asleep and got the first normal night's sleep in so long I don't know how long. I'd gotten in at six a.m. after 4 more hours on the Jack McInney "Night Talk" program on WCAU in Phila., mostly this time to answer phoned-in questions. If there ever was any serious question about the interest of people in the late President and his assassination and its investigation, I believe the reflection on this program should dispel it. There were, as I recall, but two unbelievers, maybe but one. Most of the questions were intelligent and reflected thought more than curiosity. Jack departed from his usual practise and told me of it, to give the numbers but once an hour. As I drove home, a trip of about 3½ hrs., I heard the playback (the tape is repeated), and during the first part, while he and I were chatting, on the breaks the announcer told people not to call in yet. After it was over, Jack checked their counter. Besides the calls that were answered, there had been 4,700 calls that did not get through. This may not be impressive, but it certainly impresses me.

If, as I hope, you are interested in such material for your archive, I am getting (but not from the station, which charges $30.00) tapes of this and the previous program, which I shared with a conscious (Curtis Crawford) and an unconscious (Vincent Salandria) filibusterer. With but 20 minutes to go I finally asserted myself, got the mike without further interruption, and got to tell that much of the story. The next airing of this program, that night on baseball, was so flooded with phone calls that the station promised to have me back, and I confirmed it two days later. This rather quiet program was the result. I presume the station (nice people) will let me know and that I'll get some reaction from my own mail. Calls came from as far away as Michigan and Carolina. I have also been promised by a teacher in Philadelphia to whom I spoke a tape of this one. Both will be at 1 7/8. The quality of the first, he told me, was not good. He also has a sound tape of the Burke show. The WNEW people told me Thursday they'll make me a tape. They promised this before. If I get two, you may have one if you'd like it. If I get but one, you may have a copy of whatever ones I have, of any of the programs. It may turn out that my promise to you (and myself and others) that I will get this entire thing aired is an idle boast, but I neither intend nor believe so. If it does happen, I believe it will be my use of the electronic media which, over and above WHITEWASH, PAT will have made it possible. The first consequence of the Burke show is that either WNEW-TV or Metromedia, which owns it, is doing a sophisticated special special, not an unrehearsed one, some time next month. It will be called "The Doubters" and will have the four of us. This is the history of my life, everything I do helps my competitors and nothing they do does anything but hurt me. We are, however, surviving it nicely. Well, this in turn will, I am confident, lead to other such shows. I have been nibbling away at a real TV special on the subject, not its suburbs. With a sufficient change in climate (and if a sponsor can be located) I am confident it will come to pass, and in odd moments I'm preparing for what I have in mind.

9, 10 copies "Sale"

Normally my driving time is my thinking time, but Friday morning I got an early start and devoted the first part to a conference I had in Baltimore and the second to what I'd wanted to get in on WCAU when I got to ~~Baltimore~~ Phila. On the way back it was on how to learn by the mistakes I picked up. This was the first time I'd heard myself. Once I got home I tried to get some work done, and I did from 6 a.m. until about 4 when we went grocery shopping. It wasn't until I awakened about 5 a.m. today and was just resting and thinking that I recalled what is the real purpose of this letter.

If, as I now believe, the Burke show will be the turning point , or should I say the beginning of the turning, would you want it for your archive? When Paul Noble, the producer, phoned me Thursday, he said they'll not make it available to other stations because it might interfere with the special special. I think the opposite, but how can I aregue with him, even after he tells me that following viewing of the tape they doubted one man could hold a TV audience for 2 hours and confessed it got stronger and stronger not weaker and weaker in its hold. I asked him if they might make it available to my agent in England should he think he can place it there. He said they'd consider, and that for a short while he'd put a "hold" on the tapes. Apparently they erase and reuse them because of cost. My though it that if my estimate is correct, this tape might have some significance in your archive. ~~It~~ Maybe they'd let you have it, if not for nothing for the cost of the tape. I have no idea what that is. But if I am not right and this is not the beginning of the turning, could you not get back whatever the tape costs?

In response to my questioning I learned that the presence of the lawyers had been arranged through the American Trial Lawyers' Assn., which makes me feel better still. However, I understand that Mansdorf, the "ring leader", is counsel to Holt, Reinhart and Winston. If this is the case, they the attempted trick is even shabbier. If you could see your way clear to inquiring, I'd appreciate it. I shall some time in the future, when I've more time. I'd also very much like, if you have any way of getting them, a set of the Lane galley and/or page proofs, or even of the mimeographed edition he had of his manuscript last year. Sometime when we talk again, I'll tell you why. Sometime also, when things are quieter, I think it might be worthwhile for your archive if we could sit and talk about the other books, which I can annotate for you in a way that I think might be of historic interest, and perhaps it would be a good idea if my "competitors" did the same with mine. Until then, I encourage you not to believe that everything you read means exactly what it says, that everything you see quoted is quoted with fidelity and without unindicated omissions and in context and that every person quoted as reliable as the bishop in fact is.

I've got about a third of my sequel drafted and the research just about completed for the rest. If I had a free month, perhaps less, I could complete it and read it at least once. I hate to publish another rough draft, but circumstance may force it. My present plan, upon completion, is to offer it in an ad in Publishers' Weekly, with a deadline for acceptances and publication, and if none or no suitable ones are forthcoming, do with it as I did with WHITEWASH, only profiting from the technical knowledge. We have a new typewriter for my wife, anyway, and we'll design the book this time for 6x9 and have the type size much more readable. It will be at least as many pages but less text and more documentation....And I'm scripting WHITEWASH for a projected series of 39 radio weeks, five minutes a day, 5 days a week. I'm about 15% done. The contract is supposedly being drawn...My tentative title for the sequel is WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT. What do you think? Now back to work.

Sincerely,